

now, during my service in the U.S. Senate. I will forever miss his perspective on the uniquely tragic situation many of America's servicemen and women are in today. His life is a model to all South Dakotans and all Americans.

Harry VandeMore will be missed. He served by dedicating his life to his community and comrades, leading by example. As a soldier, a farmer, a husband and father, and as a public servant, he served not only the veterans, who are too often passed over, but the entire community, so others would not have to go through hardship.●

GRIZ ACES PROGRAM

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Griz ACES (Athletes Committed to Excellence in School, Sport, Services, and Social responsibility) Program at The University of Montana-Missoula. This Veterans Day, November 11, 1999, over 200 student athletes will forgo a holiday to serve the Missoula community by participating in "Smart Choice Day." Grizzly athletes will visit local schools and promote the concept of service above self. They will speak to students about the virtues of being a positive role model. Griz ACES is a comprehensive year-round program of personnel development that is based on our Nation's founding principle, which is service to country. I commend these student athletes and the service men and women who have provided the guiding light for this excellent program.●

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. ALKIE CARL KAUFMAN

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Lt. Col. Alkie Carl Kaufman (RET) on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.

Lt. Col. Kaufman enlisted in the United States Army, Company E, 121st Infantry, Georgia National Guard in January 1927. In September 1940, he was called to active duty with the 121st Infantry, Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Lt. Col. Kaufman bravely served as a company commander in the 30th Infantry Division, 8th Infantry Division and 77th Infantry Division during World War II. Later, Lt. Col. Kaufman served as company commander, battalion executive officer, battalion commander, and Regimental S-2 (Intelligence Officer) with the 94th Infantry Division in the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

Following World War II and the Korean Conflict, Lt. Col. Kaufman proudly served his country across the country and around the globe. His assignments included Fort Lewis, Washington, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Tokyo, Japan, and Giessen, Germany. Lt. Col. Kaufman retired from the Army in 1960 with more than 33 years of service to the nation.

After retiring from military service, Lt. Col. Kaufman joined the staff of the First National Bank of Brunswick and

retired as Vice President for Loans in 1977.

Lt. Col. Kaufman and his wife Frances had two children who chose to follow in their father's footsteps and join the armed services. Carl Kaufman retired from the U.S. Air Force with twenty-two years of service, and Col. Daniel Kaufman has served the United States Army for thirty-one years and is currently professor and Head of the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy.

I am proud to salute Lt. Col. Kaufman for his great service to his nation and his family and I wish him well as he celebrates his ninetieth birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CHITTENDEN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) for having won the 1999 Overall Achievement Award from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

In receiving this award, the CCMPO is being recognized by its peers for excellence in coalition building, innovative planning and programming, integration of transportation planning with land use and community development, and for implementation of the Surface Transportation Equity Act.

Citizen participation, consensus building and pragmatic implementation have long been hallmarks of Vermont civic life. I am proud that the CCMPO has received such a prestigious award for bringing these qualities to their work.

The Chittenden County Metropolitan Organization is an effective administrator of federal and state transportation funds, but has gone well beyond this basic role to also develop alternative transportation plans and support public transportation systems. The CCMPO has also taken an active role in exploring the relationship between transportation planning and smart growth strategies, helping to make Vermont a nationally recognized leader in this subject area.

Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I join the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations in honoring the members and staff of the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization for their significant achievements.●

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE JOHN L. PETERSON

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the long and distinguished career of Judge John L. Peterson. After serving in the District Bankruptcy Court for 35 years, Jack is retiring. As a native of Butte, MT, Jack has become a fixture in the Montana court system.

His tenure on the bench has earned him the distinction as "Dean" of bank-

ruptcy judges in this century. Jack is a no-nonsense type of judge, just ask any lawyer that has ever come before Judge Peterson, they had to learn that quickly. He has saved bankruptcy clients and lawyers thousands of dollars by pioneering video trials. He has proved over and over that he is innovative and effective. As the longest serving bankruptcy judge in the United States his experience and wisdom will be sorely missed..

Although his absence will leave a void in the courts, the handball courts and golf courses in Butte will get to see a lot more of him. Jack's retirement will also allow him to spend some well-come time with his wife, Jean, his three children and four grandchildren.

On behalf of myself and the people of Montana who have benefited from Judge Peterson's wisdom and service over the last 35 years, I extend my thanks and warmest wishes for a long and happy retirement.●

HONORING RAMON DE LA CRUZ

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the efforts of my constituent, Mr. Ramon de la Cruz, who serves as President of the Hispanic Bar Association, HBA, of New Jersey. Mr. de la Cruz is being honored on November 6, 1999 at the Annual Scholarship Gala of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, and I am proud to congratulate him on a job well done.

Recently, we celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month. I am proud today to recognize the efforts of a man and organization who illustrate so well the strong work ethic, deep affinity to service and commitment to our nation of the Hispanic American community. For countless years, Hispanic Americans have played an integral role in our legal system, and I am proud to represent a state with a large concentration of Hispanic Americans. Their commitment to this country has not gone unnoticed.

Ramon de la Cruz has been active with the HBA for the past ten years and has served with distinction. He has lent his support to countless causes, including the promotion of qualified Hispanic lawyers for state and federal judgeships, creating scholarship opportunities for law students, and initiating professional exchange opportunities in conjunction with other bar associations. Additionally, Ramon has served as editor of ABOGADO, the official publication of the HBA, for four years. Furthermore, when it came time to consider candidates for the federal bench, Ramon was one of the people I turned to for assistance. I was proud to submit to the White House the nomination of Judge Julio Fuentes to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and Ramon worked extensively with my staff to bring this to fruition. Ramon has been vital to the success of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. Through his efforts, membership has grown to approximately three times that of previous years.